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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

AMY L. SHERWOOD

Serial No.: 09/985,871

Filed: November 6, 2001

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
MAINTAINING A PERSONNEL  
DIRECTORY

Art Unit: 2175

Examiner: MAHMOUDI, Hassan

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

RECEIVED

FEB 09 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the grounds of rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed November 6, 2003.

No extension of time or other fees are believed to be due, except as detailed in the attached documents. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-1390.

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all of the claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on the primary reference U.S. Patent No. 6,119,128 to Courter et al. ("Courter") in combination with at least U.S. Patent No. 6,097,382 to Rosen et al. ("Rosen") and, in some cases, other references. Claims 1-6, 13-14, and 17-18 were rejected as being unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen. Claim 7 was rejected as being

unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0147731 to Seestrom et al. ("Seestrom"). Claim 8 was rejected as being unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen and U.S. Patent No. 5,829,003 to Okura ("Okura"). Claims 9-12, 15-16, 19-26, and 30-31 were rejected as being unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen and U.S. Patent No. 5,495,607 to Pisello et al. ("Pisello"). Finally, claims 27-29 were rejected as being unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen, Pisello, and Okura. These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a unique system and method for maintaining data in a personnel directory. As explained in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0012], a significant aspect of the present invention is the saving of historical data in a personnel directory and the association of that historical data with current data. This feature enables a user to search for an individual in the directory based on historical, outdated information, and to view and understand that historical information as it relates to the current information in the directory. In this manner, the present invention provides a valuable personnel directory from which users can trace changes to personnel information. Each of the independent claims 1, 13, 19, 21, and 25 of recite this aspect of the present invention in the context of a personnel directory.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relied on the combination of Courter as modified by Rosen for the basis of all rejections. The Examiner correctly noted that Courter does not teach the presence of a personnel directory as claimed in all of the pending claims 1-31. The Examiner asserts, however, that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Courter by Rosen's teachings of a personnel directory. The Examiner cites as motivation for this

modification the fact that the system of Courter would allow the user to view and update employee information. This motivation, however, is contrary to the teachings of Courter – indeed, there is no suggestion or motivation in Courter for a user to view stored employee information.

The system of Courter is focused on the recovery of data lost from a database in a computer. The database contains objects and is stored in a primary data storage device connected to the computer. As an initial step, objects in the database are copied from the primary data storage device to a secondary storage data storage device. This secondary storage device serves as a backup in case the data on the primary data storage device is lost (*e.g.*, becomes corrupted). After the objects are copied to the secondary data storage device, any modifications to the objects in the primary data storage device are logged in a log file. In the event that the data in the primary data storage device is lost, the objects from the secondary data storage device are copied to the database on the primary data storage device. The modifications in the log file are then applied by the system to the copied objects from the secondary data storage device to restore the objects to their condition just before the data was lost in the primary data storage device. (Column 2, lines 31-41.)

Because the system of Courter is intended for the recovery of data, there is no teaching or suggestion for a user to view and manipulate the log file. The sole purpose of the log file is to record the modifications to the data in the primary data storage device that have occurred since the data was last copied to the secondary data storage device. (Column 5, lines 30-35.)

According to the teachings of Courter, the user does not access the log file and, indeed, has no

reason to. In the event of data loss, the recovery system 122 of Courter reads the log file, not the user. (See, e.g., Column 4 lines 45-56 and column 6, lines 9-12 and 34-36.) The object of Courter is therefore to restore the data to its condition before the data loss, and not to report any of the contents of the log file to the user. Thus, Courter neither teaches nor suggests that a user would view the log file. Accordingly, there is no motivation to modify Courter with Rosen's teachings of a personnel directory to allow a user to view employee information stored in the log file.

Because Courter fails to disclose each and every feature of the presently claimed invention as recited in each of the independent claims, and because there is no motivation to modify Courter to view employee information in the context of a personnel directory, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims in this case are patentably distinct from Courter and the remaining references.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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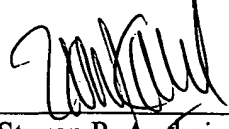
Date: February 6, 2004

SPA:kmh

Respectfully submitted,

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POH CHIA  
2/4/05